STARTLING 'N SHOCKING tales

WEIRD

SEPT 1978

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the SPECTRE from beyond unleashes flesh-ripping terror in -

STAY OUT OF MY GRAVE!

the Sewer WEREWOLVES

VAMPIRE FLOWER

DEATHTRAP

the incredible Devil's LOOKING GLASS

WEIRD

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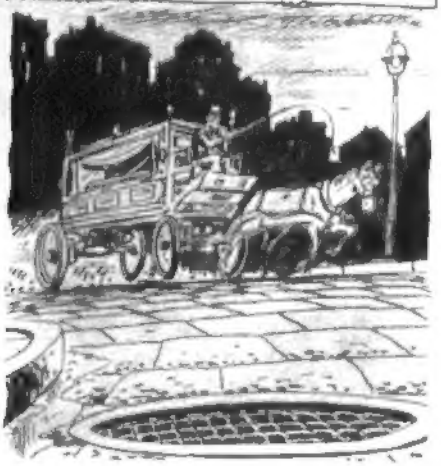
THE SEWER WEREWOLVES

NIGHT COMES TO PARIS AS A HEARSE TRUNDLES ITS CASKET BEARING A DEAD MAN TO A FUNERAL PARLOR...



SUDDENLY, THE SEWER COVER MOVES! A WHITE, GHOSTLY HAND PUSHES IT OPEN! A HAND ALMOST HUMAN, BUT ITS SICKLY WHITENESS HINTS OF SOME FANTASTIC CREATURE WHO MOCKS MAN BY ITS SIMILAR APPEARANCE...

OUT FROM THE DANK, FOUL DEPTHS OF THE SEWERS COME THE GHOST-LIKE CREATURES, HUNCHED AND TERRIFYING...THEIR COAL-BLACK EYES STARING WITH AN EVIL FASCINATION AT THE RUMBLING HEARSE!

SILENTLY THEIR BARE, WHITE FEET PAD ACROSS THE COBBLESTONES WITH SURPRISING SPEED, AS THE STRANGE, HUMAN-LIKE MONSTERS SPRING UPON THE HEARSE DRIVER...

WITH GREEDY HANDS THEY PRY OPEN THE COFFIN AND PULL THE COLD CORPSE FROM IT! DOWN THE STREET THEY RACE... CLUTCHING THEIR PRIZE...

THEN THEIR CLAMMY WHITE HANDS PASS THE CORPSE DOWNWARD TO THE DEPTHS OF THE GRIMY SEWER, AS ONLY A SCAVENGING RAT WATCHES THE WEIRD, GHASTLY SIGHT...

LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF THE FRENCH SURETE, INSPECTOR VIDAC MAKES HIS GRIM REPORT...

WE'VE FOUND NO SIGN OF THOSE BODY SNATCHERS... THIS IS THE TENTH CASE THIS MONTH! I'M MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED MY THEORY **IS** RIGHT!

...YOU MEAN YOUR RIDICULOUS BELIEF THAT THE BODIES ARE STOLEN AND SECRETED **UNDERGROUND?** NONSENSE!

BUT WE HAVE COMBED EVERY STREET NEAR THE SCENES OF THOSE MORBID CRIMES! WHERE ELSE COULD THE BODIES BE HIDDEN? LET ME SEARCH FOR THE CRIMINALS **BELOW** THE STREETS OF PARIS!

CERTAINLY-- BUT ON YOUR OWN TIME! I CANNOT APPROVE OF THAT RIDICULOUS PROJECT! BELOW PARIS THERE IS ONLY ONE THING-- **SEWERS** AND NOT DEAD MEN!

AS NIGHT SHROUDS THE PARIS STREETS, VIDAC CARRIES OUT HIS DETERMINED MISSION...

ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, DURING THE REVOLUTION, FUGITIVES FROM THE GUILLOTINE TOOK REFUGE FROM THE CITY'S SEWERS! IT'S STILL A PERFECT HIDING PLACE FOR STRANGE CRIMINALS SUCH AS THESE MYSTERIOUS AND AS YET, UNSEEN BODY SNATCHERS!

AS INSPECTOR VIDAC MAKES HIS WAY DOWN THE GLOOMY, SILENT PASSAGES, COLD, DARK EYES WATCH HIM...

NOTHING SO FAR! PERHAPS THE CHIEF WAS RIGHT!

SUDDENLY, FROM A DARKENED CORNER, A WHITE, GHOST-LIKE HAND SHOOTS OUT...

DOWN THE VILE WATERWAY VIDAC SWIRLS, REACHING FOR SUPPORT...

GOT IT! BUT I'M CERTAIN OF ONE THING NOW--- **A HUMAN HAND PUSHED ME IN!**

AS VIDAC EMERGES INTO THE DIMLY LIT STREETS, A SHOUT PIERCES THE NIGHT AND WEIRD FIGURES SCURRY ACROSS THE COBBLESTONES AHEAD...
THE CRY CAME FROM THE FUNERAL PARLOR! WHO EVER THOSE PEOPLE ARE, THEY SEEM TO BE CARRYING A CORPSE!

THE HUNCHED CREATURES SCAMPER CLOSER, AS VIDAC FREEZES IN TERROR...
FANTASTIC! YET IT IS WHAT I PREDICTED ALL ALONG! THOSE SUBTERRAINEAN MONSTERS ARE THE BODY SNATCHERS AND THEIR LURID DEEDS MUST BE STOPPED!

AS THE GHOST-LIKE CREATURES DISAPPEAR INTO THE SEWER OPENING, INSPECTOR VIDAC RACES FOR IT...
CLOSED! LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE! THE CUNNING DEVILS MUST HAVE SEEN ME!

THERE THEY ARE! OUT OF REACH BUT IN SIGHT! TH-THEY'RE GATHERING AROUND THE CORPSE LIKE HUMAN VULTURES OVER CARRION!

WITH MORBID FASCINATION, INSPECTOR VIDAC WATCHES THE GRIM DESPOILATION OF THE CREATURES' STOLEN PRIZE...
I WAS RIGHT...THEY ARE SOME MAD MUTATION OF THE HUMAN RACE! THEIR ANCESTORS MUST HAVE BEEN FORCED UNDERGROUND...AND NOW...THE DWELLERS OF SEWERS ARE SCAVENGERS OF FLESH!

INSPECTOR VIDAC RACES TO HIS CHIEF'S HOME...
SIR! WHAT I HAVE IMAGINED IS TRUE! EVEN WORSE! THE BODY STEALERS ARE UNDER GROUND CREATURES! THEY LIVE IN THE SEWERS OF PARIS!
DID YOU WAKE ME TO TELL ME THIS WILD TALE, VIDAC? I'LL HAVE YOU PUT OFF THE FORCE FOR THIS!

BUT I AM TELLING YOU WHAT I ACTUALLY SAW! HUNCHED WHITE MONSTERS!
GET OUT! GET OUT!

ANGRY WORDS ECHO IN THE HALL! AGAIN THE CHIEF TRIES TO PUSH VIDAC FROM THE ROOM, AS THE ANGERED INSPECTOR SHOVES BACK AND SUDDENLY...

D-DEAD!
PIERRE! PIERRE!

PANIC OVERCOMES INSPECTOR VIDAC AS THE CHIEFS WIFE STOOPS OVER THE CORPSE...
YOU KILLED HIM, VIDAC! YOU MURDERER! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

ALL DAY, VIDAC FLEES FROM THE SEARCHING GENDARMES, A HUNTED MAN IN A NARROWING CIRCLE OF PURSUIT...
THEY MUST NOT CAPTURE ME! I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN END THIS TERROR ON THE STREETS!

LATER THAT NIGHT, INSPECTOR VIDAC CIRCLES BACK TO THE FUNERAL PARLOR WHERE THE DEAD CHIEF LIES...
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! THEY HAVE COME FOR HIM!

AS VIDAC RACES AFTER THE RAIDERS, FROM BELOW, A POLICE WHISTLE SHRILLY SOUNDS...
THEY'RE AFTER ME!

THE CREATURES LEFT THE COVER OFF! THERE'S REFUGE FOR ME HERE THIS TIME! BUT I WON'T BE SAFE HERE LONG IF THOSE MONSTERS SPOT ME!

DOWN THE SHADOWY, DAMP PASSAGE INSPECTOR VIDAC ADVANCES...AND SUDDENLY...
THERE THEY ARE... AND THE CHIEF'S CORPSE WITH THEM!

TH-THEY SEE ME!

WITH GRIM SILENCE, THE WHITE-FACED HUMAN MOCKERIES START FOR THE FLEEING VIDAC...
THE SEWER TOP IS LOCKED FROM ABOVE!

N-NO! BACK! GET BACK!

L-LET ME GO! WHAT HAVE YOU TO DO WITH THE LIVING? I KNOW YOUR SECRET--YOU PREY UPON THE DEAD!
YOU KNOW OUR SECRET... BUT NO ONE ELSE SHALL! DO NOT WORRY! YOU WILL NO LONGER BE AMONG THE LIVING!

HELP! IN THE NAME OF MERCY
GENDARME! I HEARD SOMEONE SCREAMING FROM INSIDE THE SEWER!
IMPOSSIBLE! WE HAVE LOCKED THE SEWERS SO A MURDERER CANNOT ESCAPE IN THEM! WHAT YOU HEARD WAS THE WATER PASSING BELOW!
THE END

DEATH TRAP

I SAW HIM FIRST IN THE GREY MISTS OF LONDON.. THIS MAN WHOSE FACE WAS A SKULL! HE PUT HIS COLD BONY HAND OF HORROR ON MINE... HE WAS--DEATH! BUT I HAD AN ANSWER FOR HIM... I BECAME THE MAN WHO BRIBED DEATH!
I AM ROBERT AVERY, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT FOR THE NEW YORK BANNER! I WAS CROSSING TRAFALGER SQUARE ON A SPRING NIGHT, WHEN I SAW HIM THERE IN THE SWIRLING MIST...
GOOD EVENING, ROBERT! I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

W-WHO? NO!.. NO!
YES, AVERY! YOU KNOW WHO I AM-- YOUR HEART HAS BEEN BOTHERING YOU LATELY. IT IS TIME... I AM DEATH!

I PULLED FREE TERRIFIED AND BEGAN TO RUN..
YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE! I WILL CALL FOR YOU IN THE MORNING, ROBERT AVERY!

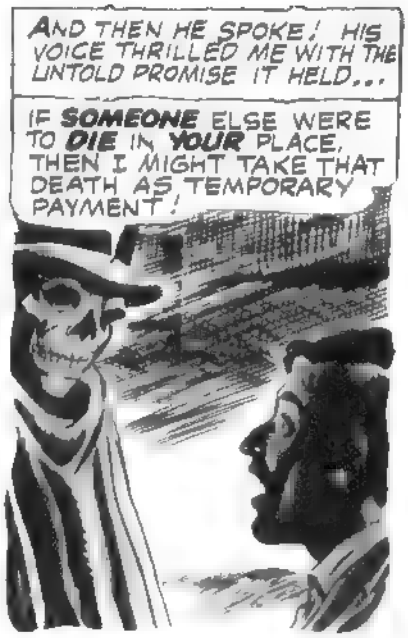
I FLED TO MY HOTEL ROOM. LOCKED THE DOOR AND PUSHED THE HEAVY FURNITURE AGAINST IT!
NOBODY CAN GET AT ME NOW! NOT EVEN ...DEATH!

I LAY BACK WEAKLY ACROSS MY BED. I SLEPT AFTER AWHILE, AND IN MY SLEEP, I DREAMED...
GETTING HARDER TO WALK.. LOST IN THESE SWAMPS! GETTING W-WEAKER!

IN MY DREAM, I FELL SPRAWLING...I CRAWLED ALONG, KNOWING I MUST NOT STOP...
GOT TO KEEP GOING! MUST NOT BE LATE FOR MY APPOINTMENT!

I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOU!
I TOLD YOU YOU COULD NOT ESCAPE ME!

NO! NO! THERE MUST BE A WAY! SOME WAY TO ESCAPE YOU! TELL ME WHAT IT IS!


AND THEN HE SPOKE! HIS VOICE THRILLED ME WITH THE UNTOLD PROMISE IT HELD...
IF SOMEONE ELSE WERE TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE, THEN I MIGHT TAKE THAT DEATH AS TEMPORARY PAYMENT!

I WOKE FROM THAT DREAM SHAKING ALL OVER... THEN A KNOCK SOUNDED ON MY DOOR!
GOT TO-- THINK! I-- WHO'S THAT?
KNOCK! KNOCK!

MY HANDS SHOOK WITH FEAR! MY HEART SLAMMED IN MY CHEST!
IT'S HE! I WON'T OPEN THE DOOR... I CAN'T-- I CAN'T..

AND THEN I HEARD A WOMAN SPEAKING... IT WAS THE MAID...
PLEASE, SIR? MAY I CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM?

COME IN, MY DEAR! COME IN!

I DON'T HAVE LONG, NOW! I'LL BE GONE IN A LITTLE WHILE!
YES, MY DEAR... YOU WILL!

I MADE MY PLANS CALMLY! I WAS SAFE...
I'LL CATCH THE 11:20! BE IN LIVERPOOL IN A FEW HOURS... NO ONE WILL CONNECT ME WITH THIS THING!

BEHIND ME I LEFT A DEAD GIRL AND THE SKULL-FACED THING THAT TOOK HER LIFE AS A BRIBE FOR MINE!

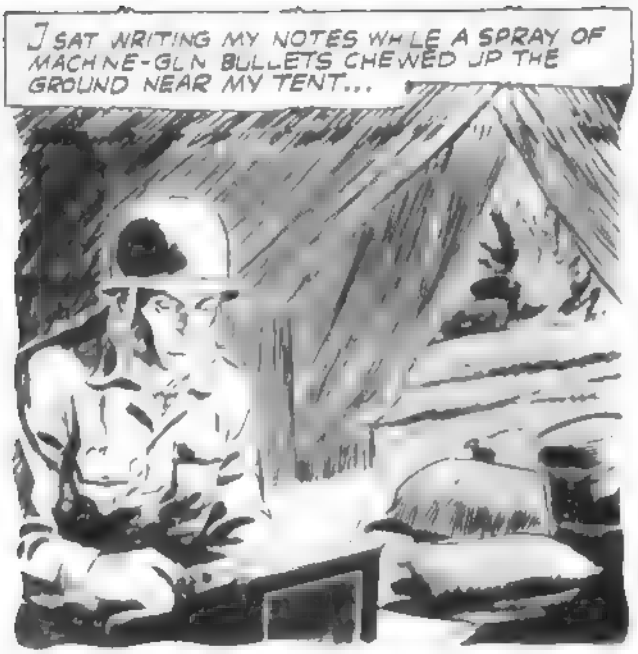
FROM THAT DAY ON, I KNEW I NEED FEAR DEATH NO MORE... NOT SO LONG AS THERE WERE MEN AND WOMEN TO PAY FOR MY BORROWED TIME!
NOT FEARING DEATH, I CAN DO ANYTHING!

I CABLED THE BANNER FOR AN ASSIGNMENT IN KOREA! WITHIN A WEEK I WAS FLYING OVER THE OCEAN...

IN LESS THAN A MONTH, I WAS IN KOREA...
BUT THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS MISSION I'M SENDING THE PATROL OUT ON!
I WON'T BE KILLED! I INSIST ON GOING!

I LAUGHED AS I RAN BETWEEN THE EXPLODING SHELLS... WHAT NEED HAD I TO FEAR GUNFIRE?
HA-HA! THEY'RE ONLY WASTING GOOD AMMO ON ME!

YOU'RE NUTS, BUT I HAVE TO ADMIRE YOU! YOU HAVE NERVES OF STEEL!
I'M GETTING A STORY I'D NEVER GET BACK IN HEADQUARTERS!


I SAT WRITING MY NOTES WHILE A SPRAY OF MACHINE-GUN BULLETS CHEWED UP THE GROUND NEAR MY TENT...

THE AWE IN THE EYES OF THE G.I.'s MADE MY LIPS TWIST IN AMUSEMENT...
BRAVEST GUY I EVER SAW!
THERE HE GOES...THAT'S HIM!

MY COMBAT REPORTS BROUGHT ME FAME! I NOW WROTE A SYNDICATED COLUMN AS WELL...
I'M GOING WITH THIS TANK ATTACK CAPTAIN! I NEED SOME NEWS FOR MY PAPERS!
THE BOYS'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU!

AND THEN ONE NIGHT AS I WORKED LATE...

YOU!!
ARE YOU SURPRISED TO SEE ME? I TOLD YOU YOUR BRIBE WOULD BE ONLY A TEMPORARY ONE!

NO--WAIT! I HAVE A GUN! I'LL USE IT! I'LL KILL SOMEBODY SO I CAN LIVE ON!

THAT NIGHT, I STAGGERED OUT ONTO THE MUD-SPLATTERED KOREAN FIELDS...
I'LL FIND SOMEBODY OUT HERE!

AFTER A MILE OF WALKING, I FOUND A LITTLE FARMHOUSE...

THEY STARTED UP IN ALARM AS I WALKED IN THE DOOR...

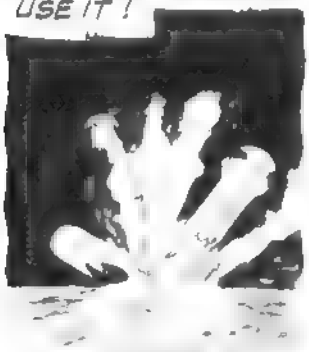
I WAS FREE AGAIN! BUT KOREA BECAME A NIGHTMARE PLACE TO ME. I CABLED THE OFFICE REQUESTING A TRANSFER. SOME WEEKS LATER, I WAS IN RED CHINA...
I'M AFTER SOME HUMAN INTEREST STORIES ABOUT RED OPPRESSIONS. IT WON'T BE EASY TO GET INFORMATION OUT OF HERE...BUT IF I DO-- I'M MADE!

A DOCTOR OUGHT TO HAVE THAT SORT OF NEWS AT HIS FINGERTIPS. I'LL PAY HIM WELL, PROMISE I WON'T MENTION HIS NAME, AND--

YOU!!
THE MAN AND WOMAN YOU KILLED IN KOREA WOULD HAVE DIED THIS MORNING WHEN A BOMB LANDED ON THEIR HOUSE! THE TIME YOU BOUGHT IS UP!

NO--WAIT...LOOK! THIS TEST TUBE OF DISEASE CULTURES... IF I SMASH IT...A PLAGUE WILL START--THAT WILL BUY ME MORE TIME! MANY YEARS OF TIME!

I SMASHED THE TUBE AND BILLIONS OF DEADLY GERMS SPREAD THROUGH THE AIR! PANIC AND DEATH BECAME THE ORDER OF THE DAY... BUT, NOW, TIME WAS MY GOLDEN RING AND I KNEW HOW TO USE IT!



THROUGH A SERIES OF CONNECTIONS IN THE CORRUPT CHINESE OFFICIALDOM, I MANAGED A PASSPORT TO LEAVE CHINA...

AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT, MR AVERY.. VERY SCARCE IN THESE TROUBLED DAYS!

SCARCE? HUH! ALL YOU NEED IS MONEY! YOUR PRICE IS OUTRAGEOUS!

LATER WHEN I REACHED THE STATION I WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT THERE WERE NO TRAINS LEAVING CHINA TO THE FREE CITY OF HONG KONG!

GO HOME! THERE ARE NO PASSENGER TRAINS LEAVING CHINA FOR HONG KONG.. ONLY FREIGHT!

UHOH! I DIDN'T PLAN ON THAT... BUT I'VE AN IDEA!

IT WAS SIMPLE, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS ORDER A COFFIN FROM THE LOCAL CRAFTSMEN!

...AND I WANT HOLES IN THE TOP! THIS SHOULD COVER THE COST!

...OF COURSE, MR. AVERY!

...AND WHEN I CRAWLED IN AFTER LEAVING WORD TO HAVE THE COFFIN SHIPPED TO HONG KONG...

IT IS NOT SO! THIS COFFIN CANNOT LEAVE CHINA... BUT MUST BE **BURIED** LIKE THE OTHERS!

I'LL HAVE IT REMOVED AT ONCE!

I WAS FAST ASLEEP WHEN THEY REMOVED THE COFFIN FROM THE TRAIN, BUT WHEN I FELT THE SPRINKLES OF EARTH THROUGH THE HOLES, I KNEW I WAS BEING BURIED! I TRIED TO SCREAM, BUT FEAR LOWERED MY VOICE TO A WHISPER...

...WHY **ME**? DIDN'T I PROVIDE SUBSTITUTES BY THE THOUSANDS! **NO!** YOU **CAN'T**! LISTEN TO ME! THERE **MUST** BE A WAY OUT... **LISTEN...**

I HEAR YOU! SOON YOUR SUFFERING WILL BE **OVER!** NO MORE SUBSTITUTES! HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BRIBE **DEATH**?

GOODBYE, MR. AVERY!

THE END

The Twisted Brain

ONLY ARTHUR DUNSTER KNEW THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THE RELICS IN THE MUSEUM BASEMENT! AND HIS LIPS WERE SEALED...

FOR NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THE FIENDISH PLOT THE LONG DEAD CURIOS WERE HATCHING THERE! AND DUNSTER WAS **DOOMED!**

AND AFTERWARD, AS THE FEW VISITORS LEAVE...
WELL, DUNSTER, I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE YOUR RELIC BOOTH! THE PEOPLE JUST DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EXHIBITIONS OF EVIL!
YES, THEY COME ONLY TO LAUGH!
I WOULDN'T BE UPSET ABOUT IT DUNSTER! YOU CAN PACK THESE CURIOS UP IN THE STORE ROOM!
YES-- YES, MR. DANE! I WILL PACK THEM AWAY AT ONCE!
THE DEJECTED CURATOR PUTS HIS BELOVED RELICS AWAY IN THE BASEMENT!
WHAT A PITY-- BRAVE EXPLORERS RISKED DEATH AND TORTURE TO UNEARTH YOU PIECES--AND NONE WILL BELIEVE THE HORROR THAT YOU HAVE WITNESSED!
SUDDENLY, THE DEATH MASK VIBRATES IN DUNSTER'S HANDS, A HOLLOW EERIE VOICE BOOMS FORTH--
DO--NOT FEAR... ARTHUR DUNSTER! VENGEANCE... SHALL BE OURS! SOON... THE WORLD... SHALL KNOW... OF THE EVIL POWER WE POSSESS!
ABRUPTLY, THE ROOM RINGS WITH A CHANT OF HORROR UNHEARD BY HUMAN EARS BEFORE!
THOSE WHO BROUGHT US FORTH... SHALL BE... THE PROOF OF OUR EVIL!
WE HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR SACRED RESTING PLACES, WE SHALL STRIKE BACK!
THEN...
DO NOT FEAR US...
T-THEY'RE ALIVE! T-THEY'VE COME BACK TO LIFE... G-GREAT HEAVENS!
YOU ARE OUR FRIEND, DUNSTER!
G-GOOD GRIEF, DUNSTER... YOU LOOK FRIGHTFUL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN?
W-WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? T-THEY'LL CALL ME MAD IF I TELL THEM WHAT I SAW AND HEARD!
NO NO, MR DANE! JUST HAD A TOUCH OF A TOOTHACHE! I'LL GO HOME AND REST!

POOR DUNSTER-- HE WORKED NIGHT AND DAY FOR YEARS TO PUT HIS COLLECTION OF HORROR TOGETHER! THE PUBLIC'S REACTION WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO HIM!
YES, PERHAPS A VACATION WOULD HELP!
THAT NIGHT, SLEEP ESCAPES ARTHUR DUNSTER AS THE VISIONS OF HORROR COME ALIVE IN HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND!
HEE, HEE! SOON VENGEANCE WILL BE OURS, ARTHUR DUNSTER! HO, HO!
NO, NO! DON'T TORMENT ME SO! PLEASE... GO AWAY!
MEANWHILE, KENNETH CRANDELL, EXPLORER, PREPARES FOR BED IN HIS MID-TOWN APARTMENT!
BETTER GET TO BED EARLY-- GOT TO GIVE THAT LECTURE AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB TOMORROW!
SUDDENLY, AS DARKNESS FILLS THE BED ROOM...
HELLO, KENNETH CRANDELL! WE ARE OLD FRIENDS... REMEMBER?
THE MASK-- THE AMAZON DEATH MASK! IT... CAN'T BE!
AH, BUT IT IS, CRANDELL! YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE DIM, DARK TOMB THAT WAS MY RESTING PLACE!
THE LEERING FACE OF EVIL MOVES CLOSER, CLOSER, SUDDENLY...
W-WHY DO YOU COME HERE? Y-YOU'RE ONLY A MASK! H-HOW DO YOU TALK!... MOVE?
HA HA HA
HA HA
THEN, THE NECK THONGS TIGHTEN, CRANDELL GASPS FOR AIR AND...
HERE IS YOUR REWARD FOR DEFILING MY RESTING PLACE, CRANDELL! YOU MAY WEAR ME!
NO, NO! IT'S DEATH TO WEAR YOU!
GASP

AND NEXT MORNING, MUSEUM OFFICIALS ARE HASTILY SUMMONED BY POLICE...
I--I FOUND POOR MR. CRANDALL JUST LIKE THAT!
YOU SAY THIS DEATH MASK WAS AT THE MUSEUM! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR IT BEING HERE?
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE EXPLANATION! IT WAS REMOVED FROM EXHIBITION FOR STORAGE YESTERDAY! MR. CRANDELL MUST HAVE TAKEN IT OUT... AND ACCIDENTLY KILLED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING IT ON!
HMM! THAT MAKES SENSE I GUESS! YOU'D THINK HE'D BE CAREFUL PLAYING WITH SUCH A FIENDISH THING!

BUT THAT AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM, ONE PERSON KNOWS THAT CRANDELL'S DEATH WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT!
YOU FIENDS! YOU'VE UNLEASHED YOUR EVIL UPON THE WORLD AGAIN! A-AND I HELPLESS TO STOP YOU!
DEATH MASK
ACCIDENT

AND YOU...YOU MURDERER...YOU'VE WON YOUR POINT! MR DANE WANTS YOU ON DISPLAY UPSTAIRS BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS NOW! ONLY I KNOW IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!

LATER..
YES SIR!
THAT'S FINE, DUNSTER! AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR TREASURED RELICS IS GETTING A DISPLAY!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? MY HEAD-- I'M-- DIZZY--SHAKING ALL OVER! SHOULD I TELL MR DANE? NO--NO, HE WOULD SURELY THINK ME MAD!

LATE THAT EVENING, TWO FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGISTS, PETER RANDOLF AND JOHN READE, MEET AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB DOWNTOWN!
HELLO, PETER! I GOT YOUR NOTE!
MY NOTE! BUT JOHN, I DIDN'T SEND A NOTE! YOU SENT ME ONE REQUESTING I SEE YOU HERE AT MIDNIGHT!

SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE BEWILDERED FRIENDS CAN CONTINUE...
SILENCE! YOU ARE BOTH MY GUESTS THIS EVENING!
G-GREAT GLORY! THE AZTEC DEVIL RULER!
AND CARRYING THE INFAMOUS MURDER MACE I UNEARTHED!

IN STUNNED HORROR THE TWO MEN RECOIL FROM THE CREATURE BEFORE THEM ..
NOW I HAVE COME BACK TO LIFE TO SEEK VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU FOR DESECRATING MY TOMB!
IMPOSSIBLE! T-THE THING'S BEEN DEAD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!
THE CENTURIES OLD TERROR DESCENDS UPON THE PAIR! THE FLAILING MACE CUTS A SWARTH OF DEATH THROUGH THE AIR AND..
NOW, LET THE WORLD BELIEVE WE ARE INDEED THE SYMBOLS OF ALL THAT IS EVIL!
YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE OUR VENGEANCE, JOHN READE! AS SURELY AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW YOU WILL DIE BY THE MURDER MACE!
BUT THERE IS NO MERCY WITHIN THE LONG-DEAD MONSTER ..
CRASH
THEN THE EYES OF THE FEARFUL DEATH RULER GLAZE OVER! WITH SLOW, MECHANICAL STEPS HE TREADS FROM THE SCENE OF HIS CARNAGE!
AFTERWARD, THE DAWN OPENS A DAY OF SHOCK AND HORROR AT THE MUSEUM!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. DANE... THIS MACE WAS THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE MEN! CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HANDWRITING OF THOSE NOTES?
I--I SEE, THESE NOTES LURED THEM TO THE RENDEZVOUS OF MURDER!

SUDDENLY... MR. DANE .. I'VE JUST READ THE NEWSPAPER! I...CAN'T KEEP MY HIDEOUS SECRET ANY LONGER! THE RELICS ARE KILLING THOSE MEN... THEY TOLD ME SO!
GREAT HANNAH! THE POOR DEVIL'S MAD...HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS MIND!
NO, NO! I FEARED YOU WOULD THINK ME CRAZY! THE RELICS -- THEY MURDERED TO PROVE THEIR EVIL!
NO, DUNSTER... THESE NOTES THAT LURED READ AND RANDOLF TO THEIR DEATH PROVE OTHERWISE! THEY ARE IN YOUR HANDWRITING, DUNSTER!
PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMMITTING YOUR OWN HORRIBLE DEEDS, DUNSTER! YOU'D BEST GO WITH THE OFFICERS!
M-MY MIND...YES, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! THOSE DEVILISH THINGS...THEY'VE TWISTED MY BRAIN... MADE ME A MURDERER!
WILD WITH THE HORROR OF HIS DEEDS, THE CURATOR RUSHES THROUGH THE MUSEUM...
I'LL KILL THEM-- I'LL KILL THEM ALL FOR THEIR TREACHERY!
STOP, DUNSTER! STOP!
THEN, AS DUNSTER RUSHES INTO THE STORAGE ROOM...
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT'S HE DONE NOW!
ARRRGHH!
T-THE IRON MAIDEN... HE STUMBLED INTO HER!
UGH! WHAT A MISERABLE FATE!
AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE SEARCHED THE ROOM THEY FOUND A DISGUISE THAT COULD BE USED TO MAKE HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE ME! BUT THEY STILL WONDER HOW HE STUMBLED INTO IRON MAIDEN... LITTLE DO THEY KNOW!
HA HA HA!
The End

THE DEAD DEMONS
NIGHT, AND THE HIDEOUS DEMONS THAT LURK IN THE DARK CORNERS OF THE EARTH SLOWLY EMERGE TO MAKE THEIR HOMES IN THE MINDS OF EVIL MEN... THE DEAD AND THE LIVING MEET AT THE FATAL STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! GO AWAY! AHH-H-H-H!
YOUR DOOM APPROACHES, DOCTOR! YOU WILL JOIN US IN THE RIVER OF THE DEAD!

IN THE CASTLE OF DOCTOR KARLA, DEEP IN THE BLACK, BEATING HEART OF ASIA, A STRANGE BARGAIN IS COMPLETED...
...AND YOU WILL BRING ME MANY BODIES FROM THE GRAVEYARD ON YOUR FERRY, PETERS! I NEED THEM FOR MY EXPERIMENTS FOR MY CREATION OF A LIVING HUMAN BODY!
KEEP PAYING ME AND I'LL KEEP BRINGING THEM! THERE WON'T BE A CORPSE LEFT WHEN I'M DONE!

THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE A FINE SPECIMEN! DOCTOR KARLA WILL BE PLEASED WITH MY WORK!

THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH BODIES FOR A DOZEN EXPERIMENTS! HOW MANY DEAD SOULS ARE WANDERING TONIGHT UNABLE TO REST? WHAT IF THEY SHOULD SEEK REVENGE? WHAT IF--- BUT I MUSTN'T THINK OF THAT!!

THERE IT IS! NOW I CAN COMPLETE MY MASTERPIECE!... MY LIVING, BREATHING MONSTER! THE WORLD MUST NEVER KNOW---NOBODY---BUT WHAT ABOUT PETERS? I FORGOT ABOUT HIM! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!

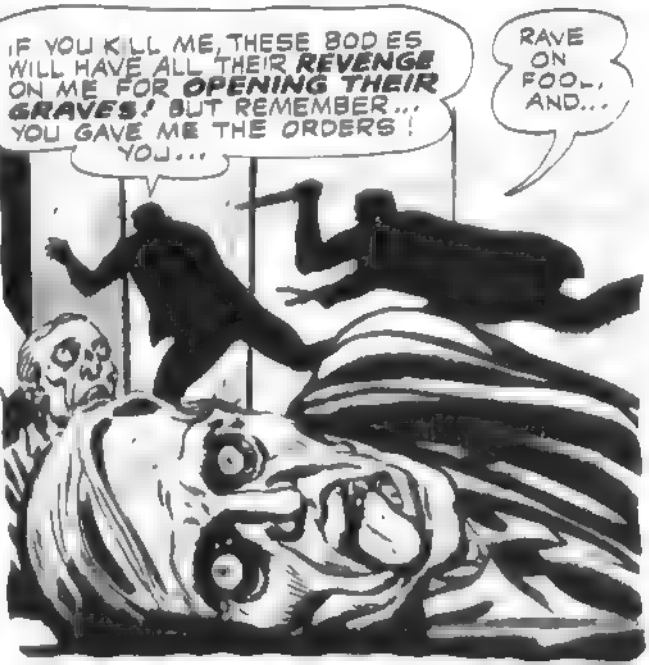
AS A DREADFUL CREATURE SPAWNED BY EVIL COMES TO LIFE, SO A DREADFUL PLAN IS FORMULATED IN AN EVIL MIND...
TONIGHT, THE ONE MAN WHO KNOWS OF YOUR EXISTENCE WILL DIE! I'LL SNEAK ABOARD HIS SHIP...

THERE'S A STRANGE CHILL IN THE AIR TONIGHT! THE STENCH OF DEATH IS EVERYWHERE! AND I SEEM TO HEAR VOICES!
RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES... YOU MUST RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES!

AS PETERS BEGAN TO DOCK, KARLA LEAPED ABOARD FROM A LAUNCH, AND...
DIE, FOOL! YOU ARE NO USE TO ME ANY LONGER!
WH--?

COME BACK, PETERS! YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THIS BOAT!
NO! NO! HAVE I NOT SERVED YOU? HAVE MERCY!

THE VISION OF THE KNIFE ABOVE HIS HEAD SEEKING TO RIP INTO HIS FLESH... THE TERRIFIED PETERS FLEES TO THE CABIN IN WHICH HE HAS PLACED THE HIDEOUS BODIES HE HAS STOLEN FROM THEIR GRAVES...
LET ME IN! I WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL YOUR BLOOD RUNS ACROSS THE DECK OF THIS SHIP!
DON'T KILL ME, DOCTOR! DON'T KILL ME!

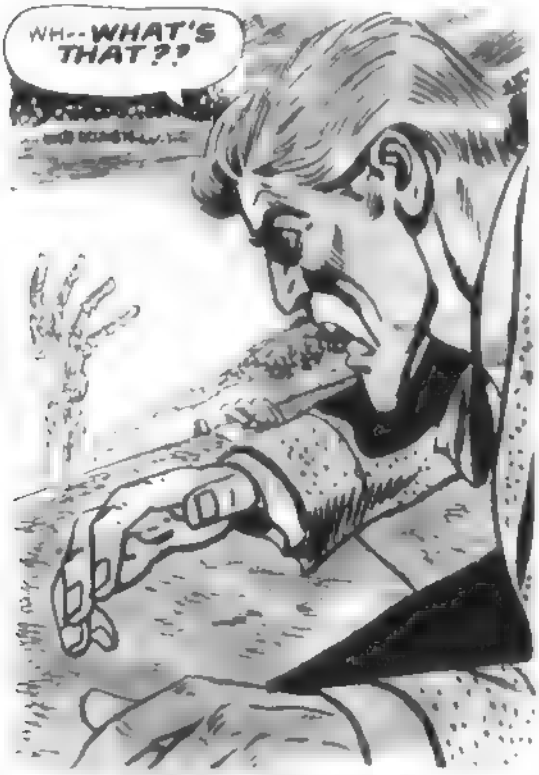

IF YOU KILL ME, THESE BODIES WILL HAVE ALL THEIR REVENGE ON ME FOR OPENING THEIR GRAVES! BUT REMEMBER... YOU GAVE ME THE ORDERS! YOU...
RAVE ON FOOL, AND...

DIE!
AAAGH!

SINK INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE DARK RIVER UNTIL THE RIVER TURNS RED WITH YOUR BLOOD! YOU ARE AS DEAD AS THE BODIES YOU BROUGHT ME! HEH-HEH-HEH

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE UNHOLY CREATION BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE! A NIGHT-MARE WORLD TAKES OVER THE HOUSE ABOVE THE RIVER...
AH, MY PRETTY ONE YOU ARE FORMING INTO MY MASTERPIECE AT LAST. SOON YOU WILL WALK AND BREATHE--AND EVEN SPEAK. THE BODIES THAT COMPOSE YOU HAVE BEEN VERY SATISFACTORY!

THERE'S A FEELING OF DEATH TONIGHT! I CAN ALMOST HEAR TORMENTED SOULS CALLING... I MUST GO BACK!
REVENGE FOR YOUR STOLEN BODIES! REVENGE!
YOU HAVE VIOLATED THE PACT OF DEATH!


WH--WHAT'S THAT?!

OUT OF THE BROODING BLACKNESS OF THE NIGHT FIGURES OF DOOM APPEAR TO PLAGUE THE MAN WHO HAS CAUSED THEIR SOULS TO WANDER...
WE HAVE COME TO CLAIM YOU FOR THE LAND OF THE DEAD! WE CANNOT REST UNTIL YOUR BODY HAS CRUMBLED TO DUST!

I MUST GET INSIDE!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

LEAVE ME ALONE! DON'T TOUCH ME! AH-H-H!

A SUDDEN AND ACCIDENTAL MOVING OF A SWITCH AND THE MONSTROUS CREATURE STIRS AND COMES TO LIFE... A CREATURE WITHOUT MIND OR PURPOSE... BUT ONLY THE TERRIBLE URGE TO DESTROY...
MY CREATION IS MOVING! IT LIVES!
UGGH! ERRGHHH

NO! DON'T! I GAVE YOU LIFE AND BREATH AND THE POWER TO MOVE! YOU CAN'T... AIEEE!

AS THE GREY DAWN BEGINS A STRANGE PROCESSION MOVES SLOWLY AND STEADILY TOWARDS THE EDGE OF DOOM AND THE WORLD OF DARKNESS...
FOLLOW ME, UNEARTHLY BEING... JOIN US WHERE ALL UNEARTHLY BEINGS LIVE IN THE PAINFUL FIRE OF ENDLESS DAMNATION! COME

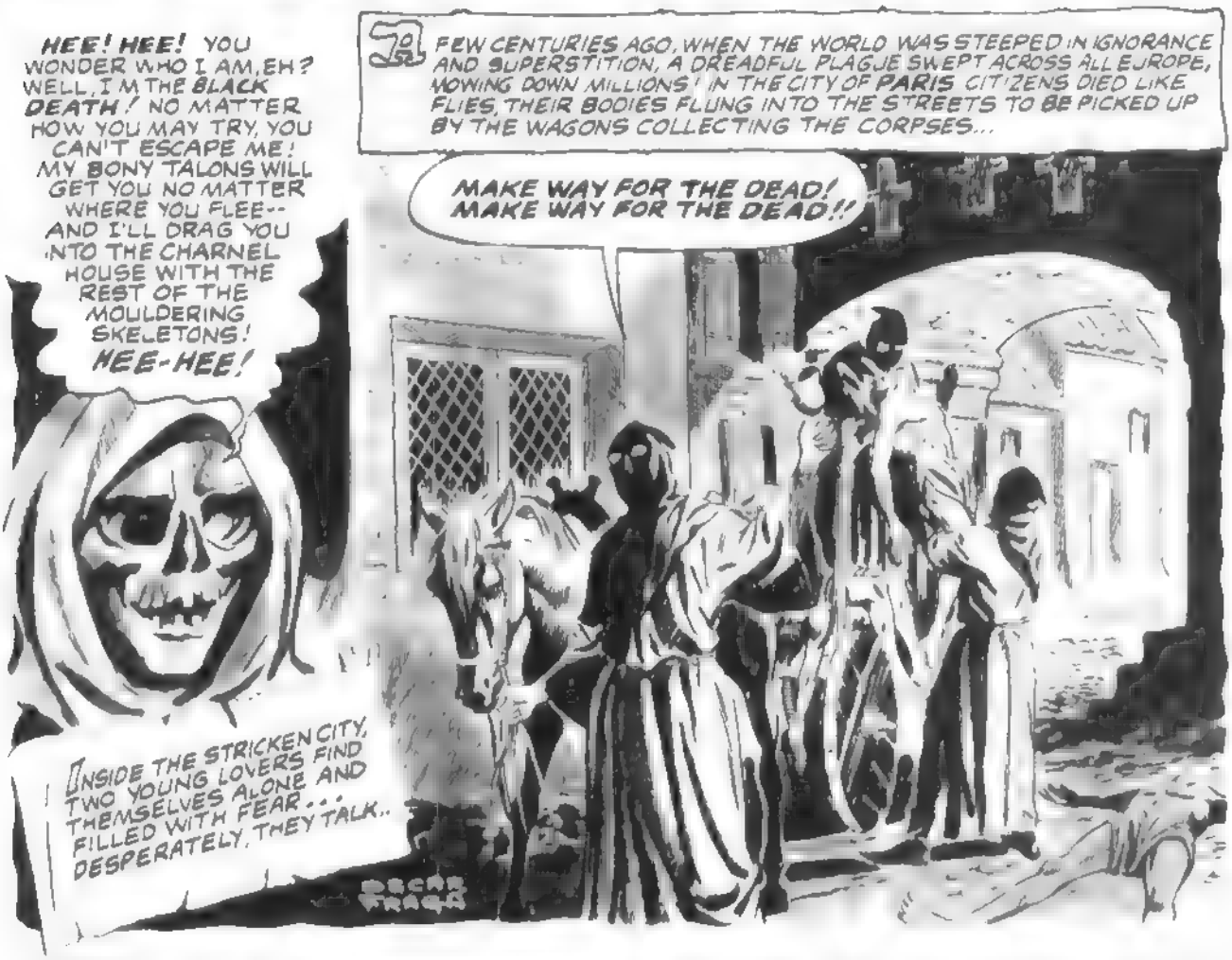
WHERE AM I? N-NO! NO! PUT ME DOWN! AHHH!
MOVE CLOSER TO THE EDGE.. CLOSER... CLOSER...
UGHH! EIGHHH! AGH-HH!

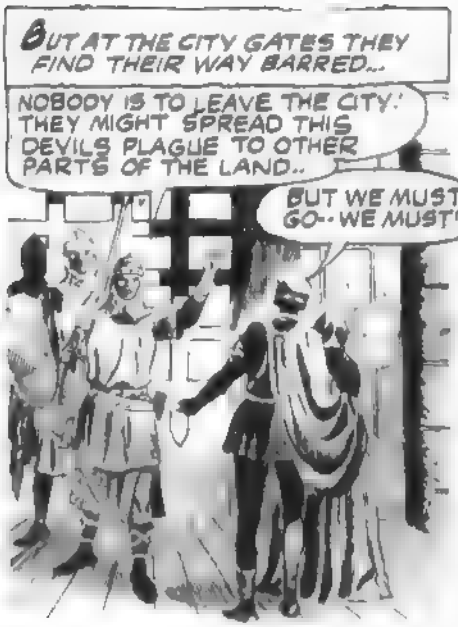
I CREATED YOU! I MADE YOU FROM THE CRUMBLING BODIES OF DEAD HUMANS! YOU CAN'T DESTROY ME AND YOURSELF! NO--NO--!

NOW YOUR VENGEANCE IS COMPLETE, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD! NOW YOU CAN REST AND MOLD TO DUST IN YOUR DEFILED GRAVES! HE WHO DISTURBED YOUR LONG SLEEP HAS PAID THE TOLL!

DEEP INTO THE DARK, BLOOD-STAINED RIVER, THE DESPOILERS OF THE DEAD MOVE TO THE R OWN WATERY GRAVES...AS THE INKY SHROUD OF EVIL ENVELOPES THEM...
FOREVER!!
THE END

DEVIL'S PLAGUE




BUT AT THE CITY GATES THEY FIND THEIR WAY BARRED...
NOBODY IS TO LEAVE THE CITY! THEY MIGHT SPREAD THIS DEVILS PLAGUE TO OTHER PARTS OF THE LAND..
BUT WE MUST GO--WE MUST!

ORDERS ARE ORDERS...IF YOU TRY TO PASS, WE WILL BE FORCED TO KILL YOU...THEN YOU WILL BE JUST AS DEAD AS IF THE PLAGUE GOT YOU!
OH!

THE DISAPPOINTED COUPLE WALK BACK INTO THE STREETS...
MICHEL--WE ARE DOOMED!
I MUST THINK OF SOMETHING. SOME WAY...

THEIR AIMLESS STEPS TAKE THEM PAST THE CATHEDRAL WHERE A STATELY FUNERAL PROCESSION WENDS ITS WAY... THEY STOP FOR A MOMENT TO QUESTION..

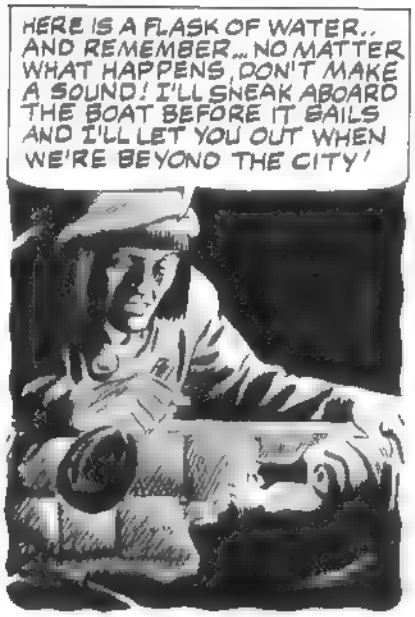
THOSE OBSEQUIES MUST BE FOR A PERSON OF GREAT RANK! WHO IS IT?
THE DAUGHTER OF THE DUC DE SAINT VALLIER, DIED THIS MORNING! SHE WAS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL!

EVEN SO, THE ORDER IS THAT ALL CORPSES MUST BE DISPOSED OF IMMEDIATELY! THE KING HIMSELF SIGNED IT!
YES, BUT BY A SPECIAL DISPENSATION HER BODY IS TO BE SHIPPED DOWN THE RIVER TO ARGENTEUL FOR BURIAL! IT GOES AT NINE TONIGHT!

DENISE! I HAVE A PLAN... SUCH A TERRIBLE ONE THAT I SHUDDER TO THINK OF IT! BUT LISTEN--HERE IT IS--

DENISE BLANCHES AS SHE HEARS MICHEL UNFOLD HIS IDEA, BUT SHE AGREES...
ALL RIGHT, MICHEL! IT'S HORRIBLE, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
SO, LATE THAT AFTERNOON, THE YOUNG COUPLE FURTIVELY SLINK INTO THE SHADOWS OF THE LOFTY CATHEDRAL, CARRYING AN EMPTY SACK...
NO ONE IS AROUND... THEY ARE ALL FULL OF FEAR OF THE YOUNG GIRL WHO DIED OF PESTILENCE!
WE MUST WORK QUICK!
WHILE DENISE WATCHES FOR GUARDS, MICHEL UNSCREWS THE WOODEN CASKET TOP...
THESE SCREWS COME LOOSE EASILY! SO FAR... SO GOOD!
And...
UGH! IT'S A GOOD THING SHE'S NOT HEAVY!
HURRY, MICHEL! SOMEBODY MAY COME BACK!
INTO THE SACK SHE GOES! SO MUCH FOR THAT! NOW--
COME, MY DEAR! BE BRAVE, DARLING! ALL WILL COME OUT ALL RIGHT!
NO! NO! MICHEL, I CANNOT!!

NEARLY SWOONING WITH TERROR, DENISE GETS INTO THE COFFIN...
OH, MICHEL... I'M AFRAID!
COURAGE!--JUST FOR A SHORT TIME, THEN WE WILL BE FAR AWAY AND HAPPY TOGETHER!


HERE IS A FLASK OF WATER.. AND REMEMBER... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, DON'T MAKE A SOUND! I'LL SNEAK ABOARD THE BOAT BEFORE IT SAILS AND I'LL LET YOU OUT WHEN WE'RE BEYOND THE CITY!

GOODBYE, MICHEL... I'LL BE BRAVE! GO, NOW! SOMEONE MAY COME AND FIND YOU!
GOOD BYE, FOR A LITTLE WHILE, MY DARLING!

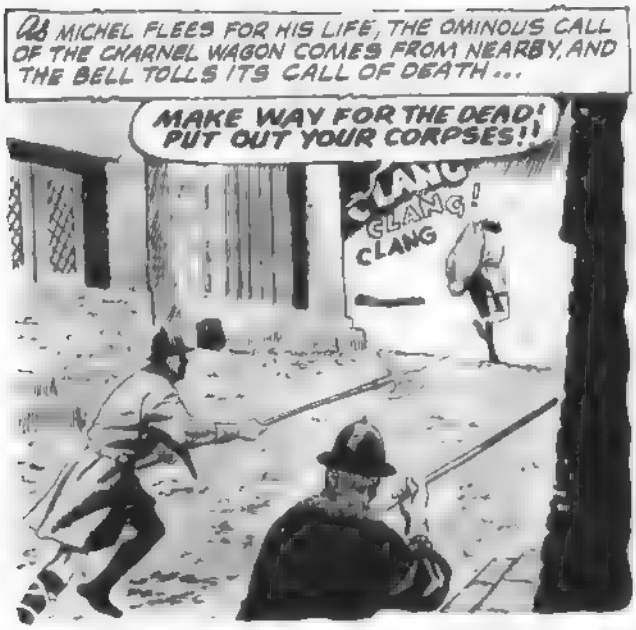
MICHEL LOOSELY SCREWS THE TOP BACK ON...

THEN, SHOULDERING THE CORPSE... HE SLIPS OUT OF THE GLOOMY CATHEDRAL...

BUT SHORTLY...
THE CITY GUARDS!
HALT!

HIS HEART POUNDING IN TERROR, MICHEL GRIPS THE SACK AND TAKES TO HIS HEELS OVER THE UNEVEN COBBLES OF THE OLD STREET...

STOP HIM!
HE'S A LOOTER!


AS MICHEL FLEES FOR HIS LIFE, THE OMINOUS CALL OF THE CHARNEL WAGON COMES FROM NEARBY, AND THE BELL TOLLS ITS CALL OF DEATH...
MAKE WAY FOR THE DEAD! PUT OUT YOUR CORPSES!!
CLANG! CLANG

FACED WITH THIS SPINE-CHILLING REMINDER OF THE PESTILENCE, THE GUARDS COWER BACK, FEARFUL OF CONTAMINATION...
BACK! BACK!! THE PLAGUE MAY TOUCH US!

MICHEL MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE! HE COMES INTO THE YARD OF AN OLD MANSION...
NOT A SOUL LEFT ALIVE IN THE BIG HOUSE! FORTUNATELY, I REMEMBER THIS OLD, DRY WELL ON THE GROUNDS! IT SHOULD SERVE MY PURPOSE!

GOD REST THIS POOR GIRL'S SOUL! I HOPE SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE...

MICHEL HURRIEDLY MAKES HIS WAY TO THE BANKS OF THE SEINE, WHERE A BOAT IS LOADING UP...
IT'S GETTING DARK! THEY MUST HAVE BROUGHT THE CASKET ON BY NOW...

...HE MINGLES WITH THE LABORERS AND GOES ABOARD...
IT'LL SOON BE TIME TO CAST OFF!
GOOD! I'LL BE GLAD TO GET AWAY FROM THIS PLACE OF DEATH!

AS THE BOAT SAILS FROM THE QUAY..
AT LAST! SOON I'LL BE UNITED WITH MY BELOVED!

SOON, WITH THE SHADOWS OF PESTILENCE RIDDEN PARIS BEHIND THEM, THE SHIP SLIPS INTO THE CURRENT AND HEADS INTO THE BLUE NIGHT DOWNSTREAM WITH THE WORRIED MICHEL ABOARD...
NO SIGN OF THE COFFIN ON THE OPEN DECK...THEY MUST HAVE PUT IT BELOW--

MICHEL SEARCHES THE CARGO BELOW DECK...
WHERE IS IT? WHERE CAN THEY HAVE PUT IT?

HE STUMBLES FRANTICALLY AMONG THE CRATES AND THE BARRELS...
WHERE IS THE WOODEN BOX? DENISE IS WAITING FOR ME! I CAN'T FIND HER!

HE DUCKS INTO THE SHADOWS AS TWO BOATMEN APPROACH...
HERE, MON BRAVE! NO ONE WILL SEE-- WE'LL TAKE A DRAUGHT OF THIS COGNAC... IT WILL WARD OFF THE NIGHT CHILL!

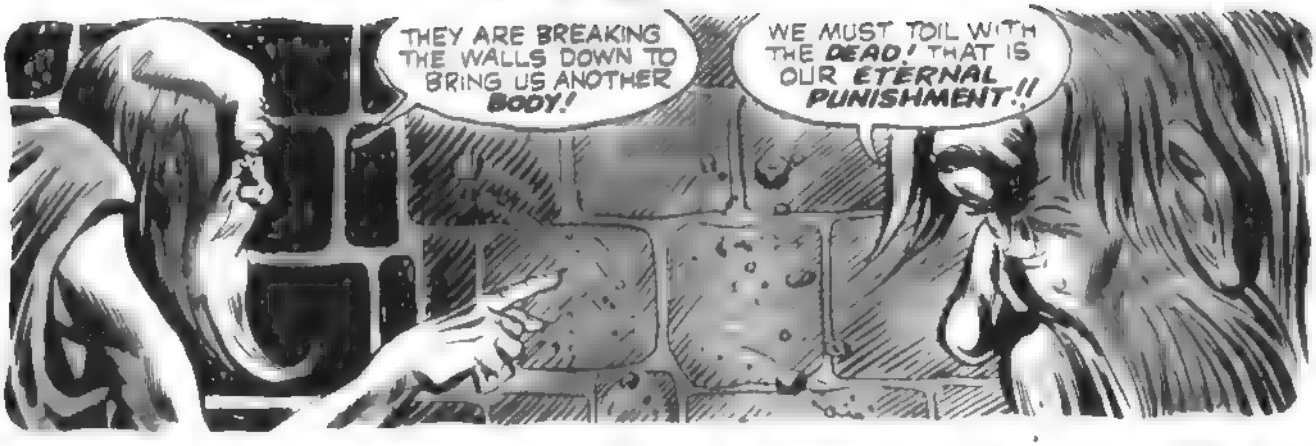
I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T TAKE ON THAT BODY OF THE GIRL WHO DIED OF THE PLAGUE!
YES! HER FATHER THE DUKE, WAS GOING TO SEND THE CORPSE TO ARGENTEUL, BUT HE CHANGED HIS MIND AND HAD HER BURIED RIGHT AFTER SUNDOWN!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, A FORM JUMPS FROM THE SHIP...
DENISE! I WILL JOIN YOU-- I WILL DIE, TOO!

SEE! WHAT DID I TELL YOU! THEY THINK THEY CAN ELUDE ME BUT I'M TOO CLEVER FOR THEM! TRY AS THEY MAY, THEY CAN'T ESCAPE THE FINAL CLUTCH OF THE BLACK DEATH!
THE END

THE SLIMY MUMMY

NO PERSON DARES TO THINK WHAT ***FOUL*** AND ***UNNATURAL*** HORRORS LURK BENEATH THE BLACK SURFACE OF THE EARTH WAITING TO CRUSH HUMAN LIFE BETWEEN THEIR SLIMY FINGERS... YET OF ALL THESE MONSTERS NONE ARE SO ***APPALLING***, SO ***TERRIFYING*** AS--


THEY ARE BREAKING THE WALLS DOWN TO BRING US ANOTHER BODY!
WE MUST TOIL WITH THE DEAD! THAT IS OUR ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!!

ANOTHER TRAVELLER TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD COMES INTO THE ROOM TO FILL IT WITH HIS SICKLY ODOR--AND THE SERVANTS OF THE TOMB GAZE UPON IT WITH AWE AND DREAD!
WHY IS HE SO LARGE?
HE MUST BE ONE OF THE FEW GIANTS LEFT IN THE LAND!

HIS FACE HAS THE MARK OF BRUTALITY ON IT! HE MUST HAVE SHED MUCH BLOOD IN HIS TIME!
SOMEHOW HE LOOKS VERY FAMILIAR!
THEY HAVE CLOSED THE WALL! THEY NEVER FORGET!

I KNOW WHO HE IS: THIS IS TORO, THE MURDERING GIANT WHO HAS KILLED HUNDREDS IN HIS DAY! THEY CAUGHT HIM AT LAST!

WE HAD BETTER PREPARE HIM FOR BURIAL!
THEY WILL GET MUCH PLEASURE FROM SEEING HIM UNDER THE EARTH!

WAIT! DO YOU RECALL THE LEGEND OF TORO? THOUGH HE MAY DIE, THE PEOPLE SAY HE CAN BE RESTORED TO LIFE IF HE BE BATHED IN THE LIGHT OF A FULL MOON!

...AND TONIGHT THE FULL MOON APPEARS! IF WE CAN BRING ITS LIGHT IN HERE, THE BODY WILL BE RE-STORED TO LIFE!
AND WE CAN LEAD HIM AGAINST THOSE WHO LOCKED US IN THIS DUNGEON FOREVER!

THE STONES IN THE WALL HAVE BEEN LOOSENED BY BEING CONSTANTLY BROKEN DOWN! THEN WE CAN ESCAPE WITH TORO AS OUR LEADER!
YES! YES! LET'S HURRY!

NO! WE CANNOT OPPOSE THE GODS BY RESTORING THE DEAD TO LIFE! IT'S AGAINST THEIR WISHES! WE ARE JUST TOMB SERVANTS!
THAT IS TRUE! WE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED!

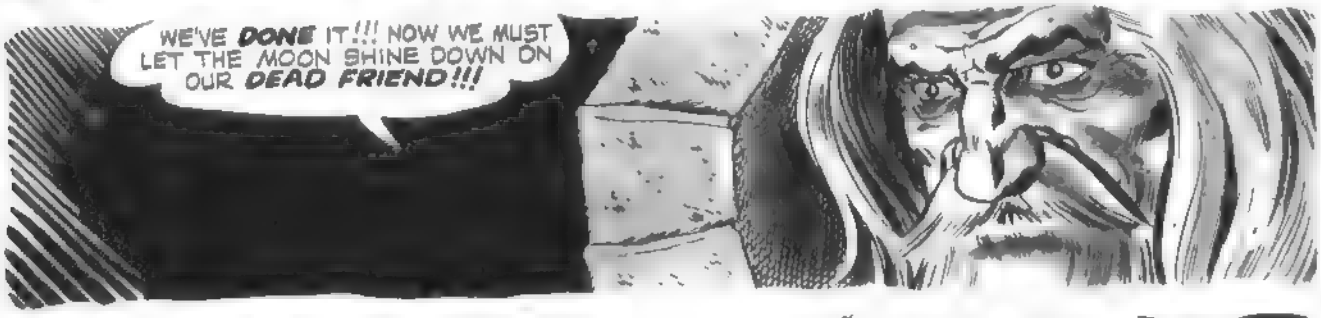
IN A MOMENT, FIERCE WORDS STRIKE OUT LIKE COBRAS IN THE DARK! THE AIR IN THE ROOM BECOMES HEAVY WITH DANGER AND FOREBODING...
DO YOU WANT TO ROT HERE FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS?
THE GODS WILL UNLEASH THEIR WRATH UPON US FOR DISTURBING THE DEAD!

THEN WE WILL DO IT WITHOUT YOU! DIE, FOOL!

AAiiiiiii

LET THE GODS BE ANGRY NOW!! ALL THOSE WHO ARE AFRAID OF THEIR WRATH HAVE BEEN KILLED!
HURRY! THE MOON WILL BE OUT SOON!

DO NOT STOP UNTIL THE WALL HAS BEEN BROKEN!
TORO WILL WALK THE STREETS OF THE CITY-- TONIGHT!


WE'VE DONE IT!!! NOW WE MUST LET THE MOON SHINE DOWN ON OUR DEAD FRIEND!!!

THE MOON IS BRIGHT THIS EVENING! IT SHOULD HELP US IN OUR... WORK...
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!!! LOOK-- IT STIRS!

STEADILY THE MOON SHINES ON THE LOATHESOME FIGURE ON THE SLAB UNTIL LIFE BEGINS TO STIR WITHIN THE TREMENDOUS BODY!

A-A-W-W-R-R-R-R!
HE'S ALIVE AGAIN!
--AND HE BELONGS TO US!

WE GAVE LIFE BACK TO HIM! HE WILL OBEY US NOW! WE ARE HIS MASTERS!
YET, HE FRIGHTENS ME!
RAW-R-R-R-R-R-R-ROWR--
COME, TORO, FOLLOW US INTO THE CITY! THE MOON IS FULL AND THERE ARE MANY WHOSE THROATS ARE WAITING TO BE TORN BY YOUR STRONG FINGERS!
A-A-A-R-R-R-N-H-H!
FOLLOW US INTO THE NIGHT AIR! THE CITY IS NOT FAR!
WE ARE FREE AT LAST! SEE HOW THEY RUN FROM US!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE SERVANTS OF THE TOMB HAVE ESCAPED AND BROUGHT TORO BACK TO LIFE!
ROWRRR
THEY FLEE IN FRIGHT FROM US, TORO! THEY DO NOT WISH TO PAY THE PRICE FOR FORCING A LIVING DEATH UPON US! BUT THEY MUST!
KILL HIM! KILL HIM! REMOVE THE LIGHT FROM HIS EYES, AS THEY DID FROM OURS!
GROWRR!
ARRGH!

ONWARD THE SCOURGE OF DEATH AND TERROR SWEEPS THROUGH THE NIGHT, LEAVING BROKEN BODIES IN HIS WAKE AND THE TRIUMPHANT CRIES OF HIS GODLESS MASTERS!
NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME! AH-H-H!
WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY PERSON IN THE CITY HAS FALLEN AND LIES DEAD UNDER OUR WRATH AND POWER! COME, TORO!
RAWRRR!
IS THERE NO HELP FROM THIS PLAGUE OF VIOLENT DEATH? ARE THE GODS DEAF TO OUR CRIES FOR MERCY?
HELP US BEFORE WE PERISH LIKE THE OTHERS!
AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, A SUDDEN BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRIKES THE SKY...
LOOK! A SIGN IN THE SKY!
WHAT COULD IT MEAN? WILL WE BE SAVED?
IT'S THE WHITE GIANT OF PEACE SENT TO RESCUE US FROM THIS HORRIBLE DOOM!
LEAVE THE CITY AT ONCE, FOUL CREATURES OF THE NIGHT! YOU HAVE BROUGHT ENOUGH HAVOC UPON THE PEOPLE!
RAWRRR!
THERE IS BUT ONE WAY TO END YOUR RAMPAGE! I MUST DESTROY THIS MONSTER FOR ALL TIME... AND I MUST DESTROY HIM NOW!

THE BATTLE BEGINS.

RAWRRRRR! GRAWRRR!!

YOU MUST WIN, TORO! YOU MUST!

AWRRRR!

DIE AT LAST, MONSTER OF EVIL!

ARRGHH-H-H!

FREE FROM THE THREAT OF SUDDEN DEATH THE PEOPLE TURN WITH FURY ON THEIR ASSAILANTS..

WHY DON'T WE KILL THEM? THEY DESERVE NO BETTER!

YES! WE'LL SHOW THEM WHAT IT IS TO FACE DEATH WITHOUT WARNING!

NO, PEOPLE, YOU MUST NOT KILL THEM! THEY MUST RETURN TO THE R PRISON BENEATH THE TOMB... NEVER TO LEAVE AGAIN!

AND SO THE TOMB SERVANTS RETURN TO THE R VAULT, FOREVER SHUT FROM THE LIGHT OF THE SUN, FOREVER DOOMED TO LIVE WITH THE DEAD!

THE END

THE SWAMP-WITCH
A SWAMP IS A PLACE OF MYSTERIOUS DEATH, OF SLIMY CRAWLING THINGS THAT DEVOUR EACH OTHER IN THE NIGHT! HUMANS DARE THE STAGNANT MIRE AT THEIR OWN PERIL - AND MORE GO IN THAN COME OUT! LUCYBELLE, HERSELF A CREATURE OF THE BOGS, SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO CHEAT THE SWAMP WITCH...
LUCYBELLE, SECRETLY MARRIED TO TOM MORGAN IS ALREADY TIRED OF HIM!
LUCYBELLE, HONEY, WHEN DO YOU AIM TO TELL FOLKS WE'RE MARRIED!
AIN'T NO HURRY, TOM! YOU KNOW PA WOULD KILL US IF HE KNOWED!
AS IF PA CARED! BUT I GOT TO FIGURE A WAY TO GIT RID OF TOM SOMEHOW! I CANT ABIDE HIM!

FATE, IN THE GUISE OF LEM SPEARS, SEEMS TO ANSWER LUCYBELLE'S WISH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TOM MORGAN, PLAYING AROUND WITH MY GIRL?
YOUR GIRL / YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING, LEM!
ME AND LUCYBELLE IS MARRIED! NOW GIT!
YOU'RE A LIAR, TOM MORGAN! LUCYBELLE LOVES ME! SHE WOULDN'T MARRY THE LIKES OF YOU!
MAYBE THEY'LL KILL EACH OTHER! GOOD RIDDANCE! I'LL BE RID OF BOTH OF THEM FOREVER!
BUT...
I I KILT HIM! THEY'LL HANG ME SURE!
I'LL STICK BY YOU, TOM! I'LL FETCH YOU FOOD AND A GUN TONIGHT!
SO PLANS ARE MADE
I'LL HIDE OUT TILL THIS BLOWS OVER!
THEY'LL NEVER FIND HIS BODY IN THE SWAMP!

SEE YOU SOON, TOM!
HA HA! THE FOOL! IF HE ONLY KNEW THE PLANS I GOT FOR HIM!
THAT NIGHT
I'LL GET OLD MEMMY TO HELP ME! FOLKS SAY SHE'S A WITCH SURE 'NOUGH!
HELLO, YOU OLD HAG! I'LL GIVE YOU GOLD TO WORK A SPELL FOR ME!
WHAT TROUBLE BRINGS YOU TO OLD MEMMY'S DOOR?
WATCH NOW, DEARIE! YOU'LL SEE YOUR BE-LOVED IN THE FIRE!
I'LL SEE T-TOM!
MY MAN TOM IS HIDING IN THE SWAMP! I WANT HIM TO DIE IN THERE!
HEH HEH! OLD MEMMY KNOWS! IF IT'S DEAD YOU WANT HIM- IT'S DEAD HE'LL BE!

IN THE LEAPING FLAMES, A PICTURE FORMS.
TOM'S ALREADY DEAD!
YES, DEARIE, DEAD AS A TOAD! SNAKE GOT HIM, LOOKS LIKE! AND NOW MY GOLD - HEH HEH!
GOLD! BUT HE WAS DEAD, YOU OLD FOOL!
YOU'LL NOT GIT MY GOLD NOW, MEMMY! I KNOW WHAT I NEED TO KNOW! I DON'T NEED YOU!
CHEAT A POOR OLD WOMAN, EH! YOU'LL PAY - AND PAY! HAH-HAH! I'LL CURSE YOU FOREVER!
AFTER THE GIRL LEAVES...
HAH- CURSE HER! CURSE HER WITH FIRE AND STEEL! MAY HER DEATH BE HORRIBLE! DIE! DIE!
MEANTIME.
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE PAID THE OLD FOOL! I KEEP THINKING SOMEBODY IS F-FOLLOWING ME!

SUDDENLY...
SOMEONE WATCHING ME!
W-WHO ARE YOU?
OHHH-YOU C-CAN'T! YOU'RE DEAD IN THE SWAMP!
HEH-HEH-HEH!
I WAS DEAD, BUT MEMMY SENT ME AFTER YOU, LUCY-BELLE! SHE'S A POWERFUL WITCH, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE CHEATED HER!
AHHHH- A GATOR!
NO-NO! I'LL GIT AWAY!
CAN'T GIT AWAY, HONEY! MEMMY SAYS YOU GOT TO DIE SAME AS I DID!

AN INSANE TERROR FILLS LUCYBELLE NOW AS THE SWAMP CLOSES IN—
AND SHE IS EXHAUSTED...
C-CAN'T RUN ANY FARTHER!
EEEEEEEEEE
I LOST TOM! HE AIN'T FOLLOWING ME NO MORE!
LOOK AGAIN, LUCYBELLE!
CAN'T LOSE YOUR DEATH, HONEY!
TOM! IN THAT QUICKSAND!
MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP, LUCYBELLE! YOU CAN'T BEAT OLD MEMMY'S SPELL!
UH-PLEASE! I'LL-WHIMPER DO ANYTHING!

LUCYBELLE SLIPS
NO USE! YOU GOT TO DIE LIKE I DID! FROM THIS SNAKE!
GAAAAAA-
QUICKSAND! SAVE ME HELP!!
EEEEE
THE SNAKE'S QUICKER, HONEY!
RECKON WE CAN BE TOGETHER ALWAYS NOW, LUCYBELLE!
HAH
HAH
HAH
HEE
AND FROM THE WITCH'S SHACK COMES THE SOUND OF MANIACAL LAUGHTER...
THE END

VAMPIRE FLOWER

FROM OUT OF TIME WAFTED THE SICKLY ODOR OF DEATH, BORNE OUT OF THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT! FOR TWO-THOUSAND YEARS IT BIDED ITS TIME, WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO STRIKE AND DEVOUR! FOR MODERN MAN THIS HORROR FROM ANCIENT DAYS WAS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING - FOR IT WAS THE

IT STARTED IN A PEAT BOG IN NORTHERN JAPAN WHERE A PARTY OF AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS WERE EXPLORING...

HO, MISTER SANDFORD, WE FIND SOMETHING!

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT SOMETHING, PROFESSOR!

PROBABLY NOT! THE BOYS GET EXCITED EASILY!

THAT'S A NEOLITHIC POT, PROFESSOR, BUT WHAT'S THAT IN IT?

AMAZING, MY BOY! THIS IS A LOTUS SEED! MUST HAVE BEEN PUT IN THE POT TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO! MOST INTERESTING!

TWO WEEKS LATER AS PROFESSOR SANDFORD IS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR THE STATES
YOU ARE PROFESSOR SANDFORD, SIR? PLEASE - IMPORTANT THAT I SPEAK WITH YOU!
YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY! I'M LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT!
YOU ARE THE GENTLEMAN WHO FOUND ANCIENT LOTUS SEED? YOU INTEND PERHAPS TO EXPERIMENT WITH SAME? THEN I MUST WARN YOU OF POSSIBLE DANGER, SIR!
WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU TALKING? WHAT'S DANGEROUS ABOUT A LOTUS SEED TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD?
PLEASE LISTEN! I AM PROFESSOR ICHIRO IKAIA OF THE UNIVERSITY HERE! I AM AN EXPERT IN LOTUS! I TELL YOU IT MAY BE DANGEROUS!
SOME YARN THAT ICHIA TOLD ME! I WONDER WHAT HIS GAME WAS? MUST'VE WANTED THE SEED FOR HIS OWN EXPERIMENTS!
PLEASE TO REMEMBER THIS IS NEOLITHIC LOTUS! PRIMITIVE! WE HAVE A THEORY THAT SAME WERE FLESH EATING! IF YOU EXPERIMENT, PLEASE BE CAREFUL!
HA HA! NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING! A MAN KILLING LOTUS!
DAYS LATER, IN BOSTON...
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP FUSSING WITH THAT SEED AND PAY SOME ATTENTION TO ME!
PLEASE, CLARA, THIS SEED IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME! IF I CAN MAKE IT GROW AFTER TWO THOUSAND YEARS!

A FEW DAYS PASS AND THERE IS A BITTER QUARREL...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU CLARA! I'LL LIVE AT THE CLUB UNTIL YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES!
FINE! DON'T COME BACK! ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT IS YOUR WORK! GOOD RIDDANCE!

MINUTES LATER
I'LL SHOW HIM! IGNORE ME FOR A PLANT, WILL HE! SINCE THAT LOTUS SEED SPROUTED HE HASN'T KNOWN I'M ALIVE!

IT- IT IS BIG! SORT OF FRIGHTENING, THE WAY IT GREW SO FAST!

CLARA SANDFORD SCREAMS IN TERROR...
EEEEEEEEE- IT GRABBED ME!

AHHHH! IT'S ALIVE! SAVE ME- HELP! AAAAAAAA-

SO PROFESSOR SANDFORD FINDS HIMSELF UNDERGOING A THIRD DEGREE...
POLICE? COME QUICK! THERE'S BEEN A MURDER HERE! POOR MRS. SANDFORD STRANGLED, AND ONLY THIS MORNING SHE AND THE MISTER QUARRELED!
BE RIGHT THERE! DON'T TOUCH ANY THING!
BETTER CONFESS, PROFESSOR! WE KNOW YOU QUARRELED A LOT!
AND WE FOUND THE KNIFE! SHE ATTACKED YOU, AND YOU STRANGLED HER!
NO! NO, I TELL YOU! I'M INNOCENT! WE DID QUARREL, BUT THAT IS - I'M INNOCENT!
HMM - A LOTUS! HEY! TWO-THOUSAND YEARS OLD! WHO DID THE PROFESSOR THINK HE WAS KIDDING?
DON'T SEE WHY I HAVE TO STAY ON GUARD! THEY GOT THE OLD GUY OKAY, OPEN AND SHUT CASE!
HUH! GOT ME! THIS THING'S ALIVE - UHHHHH-

THE PHONE RINGS AGAIN AT POLICE H.Q.
HUH? WHAT? CASSIDY STRANGLED!-IN THE PROFESSOR'S HOUSE! IN THE SAME SPOT? B-BUT WE GOT THE OLD MAN HERE! HE COULDN'T HAVE...
AND PROFESSOR SANDFORD HAS JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING...
PLEASE, SOMEONE, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME! LET ME OUT OF HERE! I THINK I KNOW HOW MY WIFE DIED! PLEASE, BAILIFF! HURRY AND LET ME OUT!
MINUTES LATER..
THAT'S THE CRAZIEST STORY, SANDFORD! A LOTUS PLANT THAT KILLS PEOPLE!
I-I THOUGHT IT WAS CRAZY WHEN WARNED BY ICHIRO IKAIA! NOW I THINK HE -WAS RIGHT!
THE LOTUS IS IN THE GREENHOUSE! WE MUST BE CAREFUL!
FIRST TIME I EVER HAD TO ARREST A FLOWER!
I STILL THINK HE'S NUTS! CASSIDY PROBABLY CHOKED HIMSELF!
IT'S GONE! BUT HOW COULD IT BE- UNLESS IT CAN MOVE AROUND UNDER ITS OWN POWER!
A PLANT CAN'T WALK, SO CUT THE KIDDING!
YEAH! WHAT SORT OF GAME IS THIS?

FROM UPSTAIRS COMES A HORRIBLE DEATH SCREECH..
EEEEEAAAGGHHH
GREAT SCOTT, IT GOT KATE! MUST BE CLOSE AROUND SOMEWHERE!
I'M- GULP- BEGINNING TO BELIEVE IN THIS THING!
LET'S GET IT!
KEEP BACK! IT'S IN THAT ROOM! FOR ALL I KNOW IT MAY BE ABLE TO HEAR, OR EVEN TO THINK!
WE NEED AXES!
THAT'S THE ANSWER! WE'LL CUT IT UP!
SECONDS LATER...
READY? REMEMBER THIS THING IS A KILLER OUT OF THE ANCIENT PAST!
GO AHEAD, OPEN THE DOOR!
WE'RE READY!

AGGGG
KILL IT! HACK IT TO PIECES! QUICK!
WHAT A MONSTER IT IS!
YEEEEEEEEEE-
LISTEN, IT KNOWS IT'S DYING!
TWENTY YEARS A COP AND NEVER -GASP- ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
WHEN FINALLY THE TERRIBLE SCENE IS OVER...
GOODBYE, PROFESSOR! BETTER LET US BURN THAT BIT OF THE PLANT WITH THE REST!
I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THIS AS A SOUVENIR OF THE GREATEST DISCOVERY EVER MADE BY A BIOLOGIST! GOOD NIGHT!
AH, IT'S HARMLESS!
POL
AND IT IS TIME FOR BED.
ALMOST TOO BAD WE HAD TO DESTROY YOU, LOTUS! THE ONLY ONE LIKE YOU LEFT IN THE WORLD! A REAL KILLER-FLOWER... AND AT LEAST-(CHUCKLE)-YOU GOT RID OF MY WIFE!
SO THE PROFESSOR SLEPT AND DREAMED-THAT SOMETHING WAS STRANGLING HIM
THE END

the Devil's Looking Glass

BENEATH THE FLAP OF THE SECRET COMPARTMENT WAS A STRANGE MESSAGE!
THIS WRITING IS IN REVERSE! I'LL HAVE TO HOLD IT TO A MIRROR TO READ IT!
SPELL LIVED BACKWARD... D-E-V-I-L!!!
WHY, THAT SPELLS DEVIL!

CORRECT, MR. DANA! I AM AT YOUR SERVICE! STEP INTO THE MIRROR AND HEAR MY SIDE OF THE STORY!
WHY, THIS MUST BE MALVERN HALL AS IT WAS A CENTURY AGO!
EXACTLY! HERE IS OLD TOBIAS MALVERN! HE'S BEEN HOPING SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD STEP IN TO SEE HIM..
COME! I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE I'LL BURY MY TREASURE WHILE YOU MAKE A MAP OF IT!
GREAT! ...AN' THEN I CAN TAKE IT BACK TO MY OWN TIME!

THE TREASURE WILL BE HERE! BUT EVEN MORE VALUABLE IS THE FORMULA FOR THE GLASS IN MEPHISTO'S OWN MIRROR! THE DEVIL HIMSELF GAVE IT TO ME, BUT IN RETURN, I HAVE TO LIVE MY LIFE OVER AND OVER IN THIS MIRROR WORLD!
GIVE ME THE FORMULA! I'LL PRESERVE IT FOR POSTERITY!
YOU CAN NOT LEAVE!
YOU CAN'T HOLD HIM HERE, MEPHISTO BECAUSE YOU INVITED HIM THROUGH THE MIRROR!

IT WAS ALL IN OUR PACT-- REMEMBER?
YES! I DID GIVE YOU THE BETTER OF THE BARGAIN, EXCEPT WHERE YOU ARE PERSONALLY CONCERNED, AT LEAST YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE!
BACK IN THE WORLD OF TODAY, DANA LEFT THE ATTIC AND WENT TO THE RUINS OF OLD MALVERN HALL!
BUT, I CAN SO LONG!
IF I START DIGGING UP THIS RUBBLE, SOMEBODY WILL TIP OFF THE OTHER MALVERN HEIRS! THE DEVIL TAKE THEM! SAY-- THAT'S AN IDEA! THE FORMULA!
ETCHED IN DANA'S EVIL MIND WERE THE DETAILS OF THE PACT BETWEEN MEPHISTO AND TOBIAS MALVERN! HE SAW A WAY TO SCARE THE MALVERNS...
ALL RIGHT, MR DANA! BUT I'M SURE YOUR FORMULA CONTAINS TOO MUCH SULPHUR AND BRIMSTONE!
I'LL TAKE THE RISK IF THE MIRRORS DON'T TURN OUT RIGHT!

DANA FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH A DIABOLICAL SCHEME...
THE DEVIL'S OWN FORMULA! I'LL COME AROUND IN THE MORNING AND SEE HOW I MADE OUT!
FORGY WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE FUMES... HE COULD NOT ESCAPE!!
I'M I'M CHOKING!

HELP! HELP! LET ME OUT GASP!
BANG
NEXT DAY...
POOR FORGY! SHERIFF HE MUST HAVE USED THE WRONG FORMULA AND WAS OVERCOME BY THE FUMES! BUT I'LL STILL BUY THE MIRRORS!
THAT'S MIGHTY FINE OF YOU, MR. DANA!
SO DANA OBTAINED MEPHISTO'S MIRRORS AND PROCEEDED WITH THE NEXT STAGE OF HIS FIENDISH PLAN!
EASY... THOSE CRATES ARE FULL OF MIRRORS!
NOW TO SEND PASSES TO ALL THE MALVERN HEIRS IN THE TOWNS WE PLAY!

YES, DANA KNEW HIS RELATIVES ALL THE MALVERNS WOULDN'T MISS ANYTHING THEY COULD GET FREE!
HA! HERE'S A PAIR OF MALVERNS NOW!
YES, COUSIN CARRIE THESE PASSES THAT SOMEBODY SENT US ARE GOOD FOR EVERY AMUSEMENT!
ONCE INSIDE...
YIKES! LOOK!
LET'S GO THROUGH THE MIRROR MAZE!
CARRIE -- HELP ME! I SEE THE DEVIL... HE MUST BE AFTER ME! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHY, HUBERT -- YOU'RE GOING RIGHT THROUGH THAT MIRROR!
I'M TRAPPED! HELP ME! CARRIE... ANYBODY!
WHY -- I'VE GONE RIGHT THROUGH A MIRROR, TOO!
AH, ANOTHER DESCENDANT! WELCOME!

PARDON, SIR, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR MR HUBERT MALVERN AND HIS COUSIN CARRIE! PERHAPS THEY LOST THEIR WAY IN THE MAZE!
IF THEY DID, YOU'LL SEE THEM AS SOON AS THE MIRRORS ARE PACKED!
I MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN THEY COULDN'T HAVE GONE INTO THE MAZE!
I KNEW IT WOULD WORK! WHEN THE DEVIL SCARED THEM FROM ONE MIRROR, THEY RECOILED THROUGH ANOTHER! I'M SMARTER THAN MEPHISTO, TO THINK OF SURROUNDING MALVERNS WITH HIS MIRRORS!

And SO, THE PARADE CONTINUED IN EVERY TOWN...

IS THIS PASS GOOD HERE?

CERTAINLY, MY FRIEND! STEP INSIDE!

HA HA!

HA! YOU'D THINK THE DEVIL HIMSELF WAS IN THERE!

BUT, AS THE MALVERNS DWINDLED, SO DID THE GATE RECEIPTS...

HEY, BOYS, HOW ABOUT THE MIRROR MAZE?

EEEK

YEAH-- WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S FACES LOOKING FROM THE MIRRORS AND SCREAMING!

NOT A CHANCE! IT'S SPOOKY!

WHAT IF PEOPLE DO SEE THOSE FACES? NOBODY IS GOING TO HELP THEM EXCEPT ANOTHER MALVERN AND ALL THE MALVERNS CAN SEE IS THE DEVIL!

HA! HA!

JUST ONE MORE--GEORGE LAYTON--AND I'LL DISPOSE OF HIM IN THIS TOWN, THEN I CAN GET RID OF THOSE MIRRORS AND DIG UP THE FORTUNE ALL FOR MYSELF!

THAT'S LAYTON ALL RIGHT! HE'S THE ONLY PERSON THAT RECEIVED A PASS! I'LL BREAK UP THOSE MIRRORS AFTER THE DEVIL TAKES LAYTON!

YES, DANA HAD IT FIGURED, OR SO HE THOUGHT! BUT FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, LAYTON DIDN'T SEE MEPHISTO IN THOSE MIRRORS!
HELP! PLEASE HELP!
TAKE MY HAND!
MALVERNS!
GET US OUT!
ALL LAYTON SAW WERE FACES OF MALVERN HEIRS! THEY DID NOT SCARE HIM AWAY--AS THEY DID OTHER PEOPLE...
WHY--WHY GEORGE LAYTON! OH THANK YOU!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

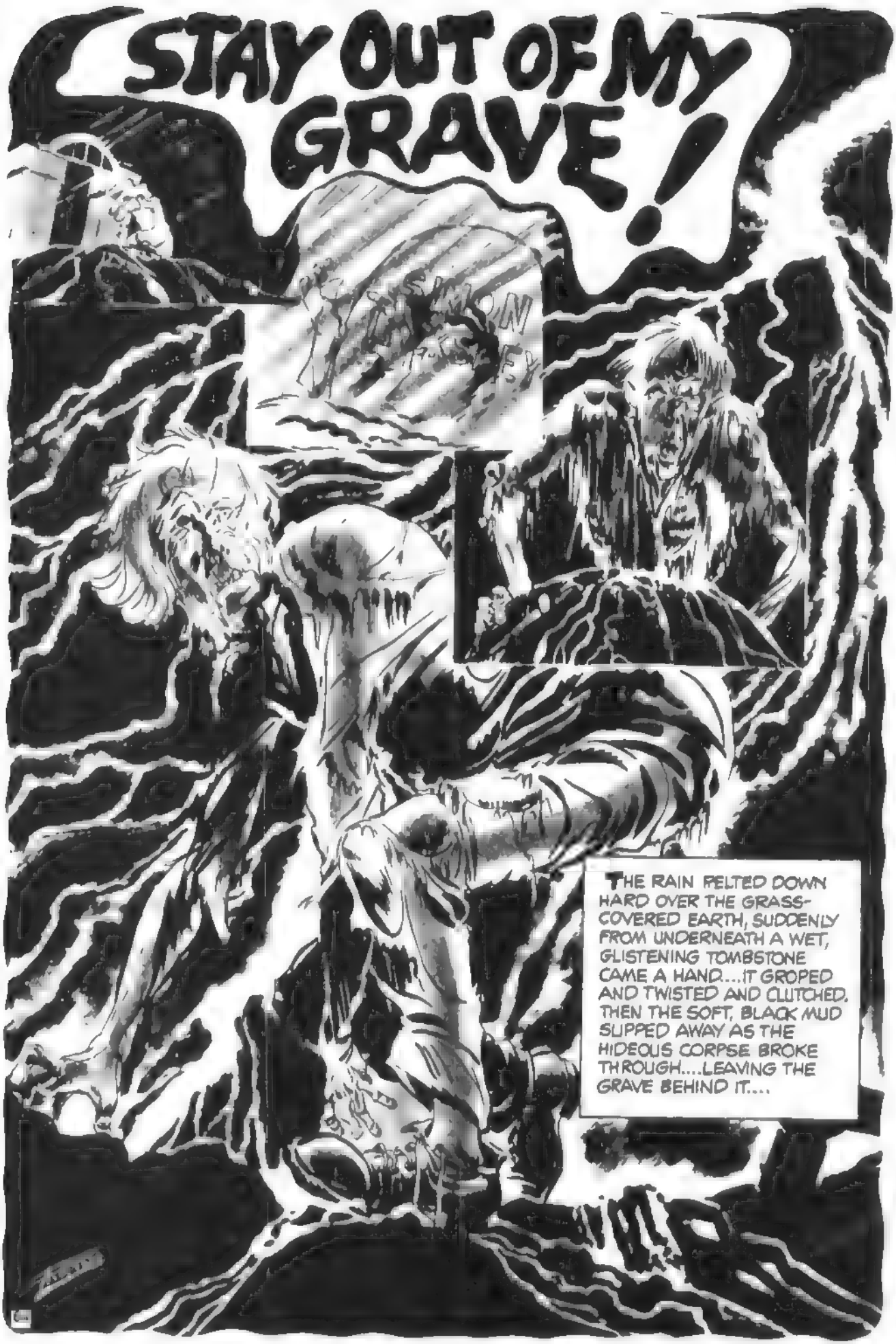
HERE YOU COME, HUBERT! BUT HOW DID YOU GET IN THERE?
IT'S A LONG STORY! WE'LL TELL YOU AFTER WE SETTLE WITH THE FELLOW WHO TALKED US INTO IT!
AND STILL THEY COME!
WE WANT RALPH DANA WHO RUNS THIS MIRROR MAZE!
COME RIGHT ALONG- AND ALL HOLD HANDS SO YOU WON'T GO THROUGH ANY MORE MIRRORS!

IT'S LAYTON--AND HE'S RELEASED THE REST OF THEM! I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
EXIT
THERE HE IS!
MY ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH THE MIRROR MAZE! BUT I'LL HAVE TO CHANCE IT!
LET HIM GO! THAT'S ONE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN'T FOLLOW HIM!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! NOT IN MY OWN MIRROR MAZE! I'LL FIND A WAY OUT!
WELCOME HOME, GREAT-GRAND-NEPHEW! NOW YOU CAN SPEND THE REST OF ETERNITY HELPING ME BURY TREASURE FOR OTHERS TO DIG UP!
THIS TIME THERE WAS NO INVITATION!

THIS EXPLAINS THINGS! DANA HAD A MAP SHOWING WHERE THE TREASURE IS! THAT'S WHY HE WANTED TO GET RID OF US!
IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, GEORGE!
IF ALL THE REST OF US SAW THE DEVIL IN THOSE MIRRORS, WHY DIDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE I'M NOT A MALVERN!
MY CLAIMS ON THE ESTATE COMES THROUGH MY STEP-FATHER, SO ALL I SAW WERE YOUR FACES... NOT MEPHISTO'S! LET'S DIG UP OUR FORTUNE!

IT LOOKS LIKE ENOUGH FOR ALL! TOO BAD RALPH DIDN'T STAY TO SHARE IT!
THEY'RE SELLING DANA'S CARNIVAL! WHY DON'T WE BUY UP THOSE BIG MIRRORS AND CUT THEM INTO LITTLE ONES! WE'D SHOW A FANCY PROFIT THAT WAY!
A GOOD IDEA!
HELP!
AND SO, TODAY, IN ANY OF A FEW THOUSAND MIRRORS, YOU ARE APT TO CATCH A FLEETING GLIMPSE OF A HAUNTED FACE... RALPH DANA'S!!!
THE END


STAY OUT OF MY GRAVE!
THE RAIN PELTED DOWN HARD OVER THE GRASS-COVERED EARTH, SUDDENLY FROM UNDERNEATH A WET, GLISTENING TOMBSTONE CAME A HAND....IT GROPED AND TWISTED AND CLUTCHED. THEN THE SOFT, BLACK MUD SLIPPED AWAY AS THE HIDEOUS CORPSE BROKE THROUGH....LEAVING THE GRAVE BEHIND IT....

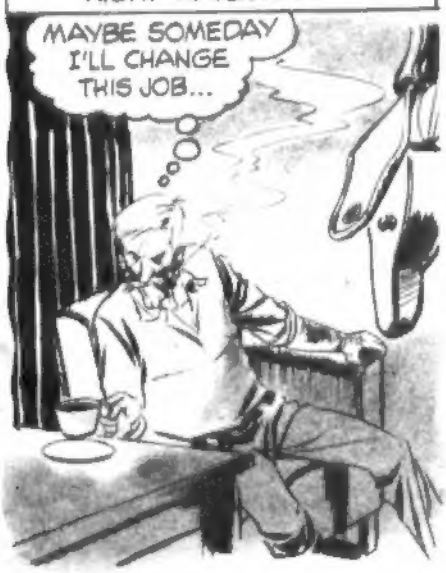
SLOWLY AND TORTUOUSLY, THE CREATURE SHUFFLED FORWARD....THROUGH THE BLACK NIGHT...

IT TURNED. ITS SHUFFLE INCREASED IN TEMPO...

IT TRUDGED THROUGH THE MUD...

A TOWN'S LIGHTS TWINKLED THROUGH THE RAIN. THE CREATURE HEADED THERE...

IN THE TOWN, A MAN SETTLED BACK IN HIS CHAIR. HE WAS A NIGHT WATCHMAN.



THE MAN'S ONLY COMPANY IN HIS SHACK WERE THOUGHTS.... AND DREAMS...

SUDDENLY, THE WATCHMAN FROZE, HIS BLOOD STAGNATING WITH FRIGHT. A FIGURE STOOD BEFORE HIM...

Y-YOU'RE DEAD! I--I KILLED YOU FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!
I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME, HUGH. OTHERWISE I'LL NEVER REST IN PEACE!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME! I--I WARN YOU!
COME, HUGH! COME WITH ME!...IT'S TIME!

YOU CAN'T COME BACK... AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! YOU CAN'T!

THE BULLETS PIERCED THE DECAYED BODY WITH THREE SICKENING THUDS...
IT'S...NO USE, HUGH! I'M DEAD... REMEMBER? COME WITH ME! I BEAR YOU NO GRUDGE!

HUGH BACKED INTO A CORNER, STILL HOLDING THE SMOLDERING GUN...
HUGH! LISTEN!
NO... NO...

...ITS RANK ODOR SUFFOCATED HUGH...
HUGH!
GET AWAY...

WITH DESPERATION BORN OF TERROR, HUGH TOOK THE FIRE AXE AND SWUNG...

AND SWUNG AGAIN...

AND AGAIN...

HUGH BEAT AND HACKED AND HAMMERED AT THE RED, PULPY MESS ON THE FLOOR...

HUGH LIKED THE SILENCE ABOUT HIM...THE DEATHLY SILENCE THAT SWATHED HIM IN SOFT BILLOWS...

HE LOOKED AT THE THING IN FRONT OF HIM UNTIL HE COULDN'T LOOK AT IT ANY LONGER. HE TURNED HIS BACK AND BURIED HIS FACE IN HIS HANDS...

SUDDENLY A HAND GRABBED HUGH FROM BEHIND....

HUGH STRUGGLED AGAINST THE VILE CREATURE...

HUGH'S STRUGGLING WAS TO NO AVAIL AS THE ROTTING THING DRAGGED HIM AWAY...

HUGH HEARD THE SWEET LOLL OF THE WAVES WASHING ON THE SHORE....

HE FOUGHT WITH THE ENERGY OF A MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT TO DIE...

HE GOT THE UPPER HAND... PUSHING THE CORPSE'S FACE UNDER WATER...

HUGH LISTENED – THERE WAS NO SOUND. BUT SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE WATER CAME THAT LIVID HAND OF DEATH....

THE HAND CLAWED AT HIM... CLUTCHED AND TIGHTENED... GRABBING HIS SHIRT...THE FOG OF FEAR OVERCAME HUGH, BLACKING HIM OUT...
NO! NO!

WHEN HUGH AWOKE HE FOUND HIMSELF BEING DRAGGED BACK... ...TO THE GRAVEYARD.
WE'RE GOING BACK TOGETHER, HUGH! YOU MUSTN'T BE FRIGHTENED!
WHA---T? PLEASE! OH, PLEASE.. ...SIMON... LET ME GO...

THE CEMETERY CALLED. THE CHIMES RANG OUT, THE GRAVE BECKONED.
LET ME GO, SIMON... I'LL DO ANYTHING!

THERE WAS NO TIME, ONLY MOVEMENT, HUGH SCREAMED...
PLEASE... HAVE PITY! OH... HAVE PITY!
COME, MY FRIEND!

HUGH COULD NOT BREAK FREE FROM THE GRASP OF THE PUTRID CORPSE....
DON'T DO THIS TO ME! LET ME FEEL THE AIR AND LIFE IN MY LUNGS! PLEASE!
I CAN'T HUGH, YOU KNOW THAT!

NO... NO... NO...
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, YOU'VE LIVED WHILE I ROTTED. AND NOW IT'S TIME TO ADMIT TO YOURSELF THAT YOU TOO...

...HAVE BEEN...

...DEAD!
THE END